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Northwich Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1946.

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W. HOBSON & SON, PRINTERS.

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Northwich Rural District Council.

Health Report for 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1946.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	57,547 acres
Population — Registrar General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	29,640
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) including "squatters" huts at Hartford Manor Camp	...	...	...	...	...	8,788
Rateable value (1st October, 1946)	...	...	...	...	...	£158,920
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£626

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Total. M. F.

Live Births	{	Legitimate....	500	283	217	{	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population...	18·04
		Illegitimate ...	35	12	23			
Stillbirths	{	Legitimate ...	15	7	8	{	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	27·27
		Illegitimate...	—	—	—			
Deaths...	...	...	343	177	166		Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	11·57

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	1·81
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	2	3·63
Total	3	5·44

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	28·03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	30·00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	48
„ „ Measles (all ages)	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

The following table compares the main statistics for 1946 with the years 1939 — 1945:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Population ..	29,020	30,030	30,850	29,800	28,900	28,730	28,460	29,640
Birth Rate ..	15·67	15·25	15·59	16·17	16·47	18·16	17·39	18·04
Death Rate ..	11·00	12·70	10·98	10·36	10·72	10·47	11·59	11·57
Infant Death Rate	48·14	58·18	36·58	45·64	37·81	30·65	50·50	28·03
No. of Deaths								
from Cancer ..	52	52	42	43	40	52	55	48
No. of Deaths from								
Tuberculosis	9	7	11	9	11	14	18	13

CAUSES OF DEATH—1946.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	8	5	13
7. Other Tubercular Diseases ...	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	2	—	2
9. Influenza ...	2	1	3
10. Measles ..	1	—	1
11. Ac. Polio-myel : and Polio-enceph :	—	—	—
12. Ac. : inf : enceph :	—	—	—
13. Cancer of B : cav : & oesoph (M)	—	—	—
uterus (F)	4	1	5
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	5	9
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	19	13	32
17. Diabetes ...	1	3	4
18. Intra-cran : vasc : lesions ...	5	20	25
19. Heart Diseases ...	52	47	99
20. Other circulatory diseases ...	9	9	18
21. Bronchitis ...	12	11	23
22. Pneumonia ...	9	3	12
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	3	5
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	—	4
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis ...	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases...	7	3	10
28. Nephritis ...	7	5	12
29. Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis ...	—	1	1
30. Other Puerperal Causes...	—	2	2
31. Premature Birth ...	—	—	—
32. Congenital debility and Malformations ...	4	4	8
33. Suicide ...	2	5	7
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	4	—	4
35. Other Violent Causes ...	3	3	6
36. All other Causes ...	15	20	35
	177	166	343

While many of the adults find employment in the chemical industries of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. in the neighbouring Urban Districts of Northwich, Winsford and Middlewich, the District is mainly agricultural. This agricultural area, as for the country as a whole, is faced with a shortage of skilled labour and one of the factors responsible for this is undoubtedly the lack of housing facilities in the agricultural parishes. This the Council are endeavouring to overcome in their future housing programmes.

As to new industries set up in the Rural District, the Marley Tile Company's development at Delamere needs mentioning in that it is understood that this new industry will, as a beginning, employ about 250 workers, and more if the venture is successful. Here again the housing of these workers is possibly a limiting factor, but it is understood that is it the Company's intention to erect 70 houses on a site already selected by the Council.

No other major industries have been established but the local Chemical Works have important extension programmes in mind, for which additional workers' houses will be needed. Sites for these will shortly receive Council consideration.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared with the Northwich, Wins- ford, & Middlewich Urban Districts & with the Northwich & District Joint Hos- pital Board).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	-do-
Clerical Staff	2 persons (whole-time).	-do-

J. S. Carrie,	Chief Sanitary Inspector	(Northwich Rural District Council only).
Cert. R.S.I.		
Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.		
Cert. Sanitary Science.		
Cert. Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Management.		
Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I.		
Public Health & Hygiene.		
H. R. Worsley.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	do.
	(At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	
W. P. Musgrave.	Assistant to Sanitary Inspector.	do.
	(At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time).	do.

(2) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and with the County Analyst proved adequate during the year for the examination of water, milk and ice-cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions.

(3) **Ambulance Facilities.**

The inhabitants of the area have shared in the benefits of the Northwich Urban Service working under a Joint Ambulance Committee. In addition, the Winsford Urban Ambulance Service has assisted. During 1946, 200 Rural patients were removed by the Northwich and Winsford Urban Ambulance Services.

(4) **Davenham Isolation Hospital.**

The Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Davenham, Nr. Northwich, served adequately the needs of the District Council and admitted 29 Northwich Rural patients during 1946.

(5) Details of the other Health Services, e.g. Sanitary & Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, Diphtheria Immunisation, etc. etc., provided by the Northwich Rural Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) **Provided by the County Council.**

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Rural Area under the following Services:- School

Medical, Maternity & Child Welfare, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights & Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases. County Maternity Services are provided in neighbouring Hospitals, e.g. West Park, Clatterbridge, Chester City Hospital and County Maternity Homes.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The Council's district has been well supplied throughout the year, the Eddisbury Borehole supply having rendered available an additional quantity sufficient to remove the necessity for the service of warning notices, a thing which was frequently necessary in the past.

The Parishes from which complaints have arisen during 1946 were Little Budworth, Marton, Wimboldsley and Sproston, and it is anticipated that when the new Water Board becomes operative on the 1st April, 1947, they will abandon the existing source of supply to these Parishes and furnish a supply from the Delamere Borehole.

New extensions of mains have been carried out for new Council Housing Schemes as follows:—

Barnton	220	yards for	30	houses
Hartford	128	„ „	16	„
Lostock Gralam	390	„ „	40	„
Weaverham	2,125	„ „	118	„
Tarporley	140	„ „	30	„
Total	3,003	„ „	234	„

The responsibility for water supply will pass completely to the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board on the 1st April, 1947, both as to supply and distribution, and this will no doubt bring about a uniformity over the Board's area and help others to enjoy the benefits which the Northwich Rural District, thanks to their progressive policy, have made available in their own district.

The problem of the farms and properties in the Utkinton and Rushton area still, during 1946, remains unsolved but at the time of writing it is understood that the newly constituted Water Board are now investigating the matter.

The Council's Engineer, Mr. J. Birtwistle, estimates that the Rural Council 'have a sufficient surplus of water resources to provide for the erection of 5,500 additional houses and the normal increase of population up to 1947.'

During the course of the year 18 samples of water were submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results:-

Bacteriological Examinations:—

Site.	Analyst's Report.
Crabtree Green, Oakmere: (raw) — 1 sample.	"All samples of wholesome bacteriological quality."
Crabtree Green, Oakmere: (chlorinated)—2 samples.	
Borehole, Delamere (raw) — 1 sample.	
Borehole, Delamere: (chlorinated) — 2 samples.	
Tarporley, Liverpool Supply: (chlorinated) —2 samples.	
Cotebrook (Northwich U.D.C. Supply)—2 samples.	
Shrewsbury Arms (Winsford U.D.C. Supply)—1 sample.	
Davenham Isolation Hospital (Middlewich U.D. Supply)—2 samples.	
Three Greyhounds Inn (Joint N.U.D. & N.R.D. Supply)—2 samples.	"This water cannot be considered satisfactory for drinking purposes in its present condition."
Wimboldsley School (Winsford U.D. Supply)—2 samples.	
Moulton: Sample of water from shallow spring nr. L.M.S. Signal-box, Verdin Sidings.	

Warning notice concerning the above unsatisfactory supply was given to the users thereof.

The Area's supply has no plumbo-solvent action and as a safeguard chlorination is regularly applied.

As to the availability of the supply, the following sets out the approximate number of houses served from Public Water Mains, either direct to the houses or by means of standpipes:-

Number direct to Houses	8,763
By means of Standpipes	... 46—made up as follows:-
	Crowton (12)
	Delamere (3)
	Little Leigh (2)
	Marston (11)
	Weaverham (1)
	Wincham (17)

(These figures are approximate only as strictly accurate figures would entail a detailed survey of the area, for which purpose the Health Department has not at present sufficient staff).

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Birtwistle, the Engineer & Surveyor of the Council, for the following general statement on the drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements of the area during 1946.

“The decision of the Council to amalgamate the Parish of Acton with Weaverham for sewerage purposes has necessitated the scrapping of the original plans for new outfall works at Weaverham, but the new plans are almost ready for tendering purposes and, as soon as possible, an application for Loan Sanction will be made to the Ministry of Health. This scheme was urgently needed before the World War, and in consequence, a heavy weekly expense has had to be incurred in emptying private septic tanks in the Weaverham-Northwich Road area where soakaways have failed, after a few years of service, to dispose of the effluent, due to the raising of the subsoil water level.

“Regarding the existing outfall, the present treatment of the sewage, prior to discharge to the River Weaver, consists of tank treatment only, due to a very old agreement providing for the landowner to use it for irrigation purposes in connection with agriculture, a thing which, being more or less optional, is not carried out, and having regard to the larger volume of sewage which will now have to be dealt with, as a result of the large housing schemes in the parish, actual and projected, it is urgently necessary on legal grounds to provide for the proper treatment of sewage, prior to its discharge to the River Weaver. The estimated total cost of the Joint Scheme is about £47,000.

“The scheme previously proposed for the Delamere area for the purpose of protecting the subterranean water supply at Eddisbury Borehole, was recently submitted for the approval of the Ministry of Health, and also, an application was made to the Cheshire County Council for financial assistance under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act.

“With certain minor modifications the Ministry stated they would be prepared to give their approval, but the County Council thought a much more ambitious scheme was necessary to give more adequate protection to the subterranean water supply and to provide for the removal of five small existing

public and private outfalls at the same time. This, it is estimated, will increase the cost from £2,400 to £10,500, but it will carry out an important part of the general sewerage scheme for the area in the vicinity of the Abbey Arms Corner, in addition to Station Road.

“The plans are well advanced and will shortly be submitted for approval.

“A number of other sewerage schemes must necessarily remain in abeyance for the present, although they have been included in the Council's post war programme. Housing is the first priority and is absorbing the major part of the time of the staff. These involve the laying of both surface and foul sewers. The length of such sewers laid during the past year is as follows :-

Weaverham	Foul sewers	1,125	yards.
„	Surface water sewers	1,109	„
Lostock Gralam	Foul sewers	122	„
„	Surface water sewers	458	„
Hartford	Foul sewers	120	„
„	Surface water sewers	150	„
Tarporley	Foul sewers	86	„
„	Surface water sewers	125	„
Barnton	Foul sewers	230	„
„	Surface water sewers	170	„
		<hr/>	
		Total	3,695

Rivers Pollution.

Bearing upon the above comments on drainage and sewerage comes the subject of rivers pollution and it can be said that in a general way the rivers and streams in the district have been maintained without serious pollution. Private sewage disposal installations, particularly those to farm houses, are the chief offenders, due to neglect of the owners and/or occupiers who frequently treat these installations as something to forget. A number of cases where the disposal arrangements were in urgent need of attention have come to light during the past two years, and in each case the owners have been requested to provide mechanical sprinklers in conjunction with a percolating filter.

Whilst the Council's programme for the centralisation of all public outfalls is being worked out as circumstances permit, it is more than likely that small independent outfalls for many of the village nuclei will have to be resorted to for this purpose, so it may be necessary at a later date for an Inspector to be appointed to make regular and systematic inspections of all private and public installations.

Closet Accommodation.

Steps are in hand for the conversion of the remaining 31 pails at Rudheath. In the case of Weaverham and Acton, the new sewerage scheme referred to above will remove the obstacle to the conversion scheme in these two Parishes. What is now in hand for the Parish of Rudheath, it is hoped will also apply in the near future in the Parishes of Cuddington, Weaverham and Marston.

Public Cleansing.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. S. Carrie, reports as follows under this heading:-

“**Scavenging.**—During the year contracts with the following contractors were terminated and the work carried out by direct labour.

J. W. Gleave, Weaverham.	{	refuse removal in the Parishes of Acton and Cuddington; nightsoil removal in the Parishes of Acton, Cuddington and Weaverham.
G. Booth, Little Budworth	{	refuse removal in the Parish of Little Budworth.
F. Brooks, Stanthorne.	{	refuse removal in the Parish of Stanthorne.

The Council purchased a new S.D. freighter to strengthen the scavenging fleet and now undertakes the removal of house refuse by direct labour in the following Parishes:-

Acton	Delamere	Nether Peover
Allstock	Hartford	Oakmere
Barnton	Lach Dennis	Rudheath
Bostock	Little Budworth	Sproston
Byley	Little Leigh	Stanthorne
Crowton	Lostock Gralam	Weaverham
Cuddington	Marston	Whatecroft
Darnhall	Marton	Wimboldsley
Davenham	Moulton	Wincham

The undernoted Parishes are still on contract:-

Anderton	{	House refuse and nightsoil removal.
Comberbach	{	
Tarporley	{	House refuse removal only.
Rushton	{	
Ukinton	{	

It should also be noted that the Council now undertake the removal of nightsoil in the Parishes of Wincham, Marston and Weaverham, Cuddington and Acton (part), and with the incorporation of the new S.D. freighter and the revised hours for commencement a marked improvement in this work has been noted.

Salvage of Materials.

Sale of Salvage Materials:—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
£753	£910	£2,242	£2,210	£1,582	£1,124	£837

It should be noted that individual collections of salvage were discontinued in October, 1945.

The principal sales of Salvage were:—

During the Year 1946.

						Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	108	16	—
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	3	17	—
Tins	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Textiles		...	...	...	...	8	16	1
Bones	...	£	...	...	...	2	3	1

Since the inception of the Salvage Scheme in April, 1940 the following Collections have been made:—

						Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	1,028	15	—
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	413	12	—
Tins	...	...	...	...	...	287	9	3
Textiles		...	...	...	...	114	15	—
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	20	6	1

Recreational Sites and Playing Fields.

The Parish Councils have been informed that the Council will afford technical and other assistance to enable them to develop Playing Fields, Recreation Grounds and Village Halls, and, where practicable, will purchase along with their housing sites sufficient land to meet this need.

A number of Parish Councils, including the following, have already embarked upon such schemes, directly or indirectly, in varying degrees:—

Anderton	Rudheath
Lostock Gralam	Cuddington
Weaverham	Allostock
Daverham	Lach Dennis
Tarporley	

and in other cases preparations are in hand.

In most of their Housing Schemes the Council are incorporating Village Greens and Children's Playgrounds, independently of the Parish Councils, some of which, however, the Parish Councils will be requested to supervise on completion.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the Council's District, but there are several private ones as follows:-

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere—not in use in 1946.

Golden Nook, Cuddington

I.C.I. Bath, Acton

Marbury Hall Club

Marton School Camp

} not available to general public

Floods.

On the 8th and 9th February disastrous flooding occurred in the Weaver Valley area. This mainly affected the lower parts of the Parishes of Acton and Crowton in the Rural District. The occupiers of flooded dwellings were evacuated and under the vigilance of Councillors J. Nicholas J.P., and H. Bradbury J.P., C.C., the Acton Parish Hall was opened and served admirably as a Rest Centre for the dispossessed. The Public Health Department inspected all affected dwellings, gave advice and took all precautions possible to prevent any danger arising to health.

After dealing affectively with their own area, the staff volunteered its aid to the neighbouring Urban Authority. This aid was greatly appreciated.

Schools.

The number of schools throughout the area is as follows:-

5 Private Schools.

32 Elementary Schools.

During the year the Comberbach C. of E. School was closed by the Education Authorities on account of serious drainage nuisance occurring beneath the School.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.

In common with other Authorities in the County, the Council act as Agents for the County Council in this matter. The number of contracts entered into during the year was nineteen and the contracts figure amounted to £141. In addition ten clearances of premises were carried out at a cost of £7. All the Council's properties, i.e. depots, refuse tips, sewage works and main sewers were treated during the year. The work was well maintained throughout the whole of the year and the total number of visits made on rats and mice destruction was 887. With regard to the

treatment of rats in sewers the Council is operating under the Ministry of Food Scheme and is thereby entitled to reclaim 30% of the cost involved.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Camping Sites.

The following licensed camping sites are at present in operation in the district:-

1. Allways Cafe, Allstock.
2. S. Worth, Crabtree Garage, Oakmere. ;
3. Mrs. Speachley, Eddisbury Hill.
4. L. K. Beckwith, Eddisbury Hill.
5. Sandy Lane, Weaverham—2 sites.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Compl- ed with	Issued	Compl- ed with
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	301	201	157	5	1
2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) ..	28	5	5	..	..
3. Moveable Dwellings	63	1	1	..	..
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	89	79	66	..	..
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools ..	133	86	84	1	1
6. Ditches and Watercourses	21	..	..	..	..
7. Offensive Accumulations	14	13	13	..	..
8. Keeping of Animals	6	6	6	..	..
9. Provision of Ashbins	555	325	294	..	..
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection ..	59	4	4	..	..
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips	30	1	1	..	..
12. Slaughterhouses	19	..	..	..	..
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	279	41	39	2	1
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	110	43	41	..	..
15. Factories etc.	6	3	3	..	..
16. Protection & sampling of Water Supplies	19	1	1	..	..
17. Canal Boats	6	..	..	..	..
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations and Disinfections	75	..	..	..	..
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection ..	11	2	1	..	..
20. Disinfection of Premises	31	1	1	..	..
21. Deratisation of Premises	887	13	12	..	..
22. Smoke Observations .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
23. Miscellaneous	51	51	51	..	..
24. Inspections under Rural Housing Survey	714	..	..	..	..
Totals	3507	876	780	8	3

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ..	4	2	..
Factories without mechanical power ..	1	1	..
Other premises	1	..	..
Total	6	3	..

Section D.

HOUSING.

Reasonable standards of housing have been maintained throughout the district during 1946.

During the year 5 cottages were demolished by informal action.

The progress made during 1946 in the Rural Housing Survey, which was commenced in 1945, can be gathered from the following:-

	No. of working-class houses inspected. (R.V. £20 and under)	No. regarded as requiring demolition.	No. found to be overcrowded
Lostock Gralam (part of)	120	26	—
Moulton	281	28	10
Anderton	105	16	—
Little Leigh	95	16	4
Barnton (part of)	113	33	13
	714	119	27
Totals at 1st Jan. 1946	694	181	29
	—	—	—
Totals at 1st Jan. 1947	1,408	300	56

As to the provision of new houses by the Council, the number actually completed by the end of the year, namely, 46, was not as many as the Council expected in their first-year programme, but this did not, however, prevent the Council preparing for a second year programme of 318, the majority of them so sited as to cater specially for agricultural workers. In addition the Council decided to build 52 Airey type permanent pre-fabricated houses. During 1946 the Council gave much attention to the Hartford Manor Military Camp to make it reasonably suitable for the housing of "squatters." This reconditioning consisted of general repairs to roofs, windows, walls and floors; the provision of party walls; the fixing of portable ranges, water supply and sink; the laying of branch drains and the erection

of additional sanitary units, etc. By the end of the year a total of 84 persons—24 men and 28 women and 32 children—were accommodated in 28 living units.

During 1946, 6 new houses and 2 conversions were completed by private enterprise in the area.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) **Milk.**—148 samples—as against 53 during 1945—of milk were submitted to the Laboratory during 1946 with the following results:—

	Positive.	Negative.
(1) For the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	—	22 samples
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory
(2) Graded Milks for compliance with prescribed standards:—		
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	32 samples	13 samples
Accredited Milk	16 „	14 „
Pasteurised Milk	19 „	11 „
T.T. (Past.) Milk	—	1 „
(3) Cleanliness tests of Ungraded Milks	9	11 „

Included amongst the above figure of 148 were 42 School Milk samples, of which 14 failed to comply with the prescribed standards. Action by the Council initiated a re-arrangement and improvement in the supplies whereby at the end of the year all the school children in the area were receiving either a clean and properly pasteurised milk or a satisfactory graded supply.

In addition to the above, 10 successive satisfactory reports on samples of pasteurised milk being produced at a large Milk Depot in the area have been reported to us by the County Health Department.

The Council's District forms part of a large milk producing area of Cheshire and big improvements in production have lately taken place. In 1938 the total farms in the area was 567, of which 308 produced ordinary milk, 256 Accredited Milk and 3 Tuberculin-Tested Milk. The figures by the end of 1946 were as follows:—

Total farms	...	...	...	600
Ordinary Milk Producers	...	...	...	316
Accredited Milk Producers	...	...	...	267
Tuberculin-Tested Milk Producers	...	...	...	17

The following licences under the Special Designations Order were granted during the year:-

Authorising dealers to use the special designation "Tuberculin-Tested"	8
Authorising dealers to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	4
Authorising dealers to use the special designation "Accredited"	1

On the subject of the heat treatment of milk, rapid strides in this connection have been made by the principal collecting Depot serving the Northwich Rural area. Here a modern High-Temperature-Short-Time Pasteurising Plant has been installed and its satisfactory working is evidenced by the 10 successive satisfactory County Council reports mentioned above.

- (b) **Meat.**—No slaughtering has taken place in the district as all the 19 licensed slaughterhouses are closed due to the operation of the Ministry of Food's Orders.

Diseases of Animals Act—24 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, none of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

No cases were reported under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, during 1946.

The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during the course of 279 inspection at food preparing premises made during the year:-

41 lbs. Pork	33½ lbs. Bacon
8 lbs. Corned Beef	17 lbs. Ground Rice
146 lbs. Butter	11 lbs. Pearl Barley
2 cwts. Peas	50 lbs. Margarine
79 ozs. Chocolate	231 tins Evaporated Milk
70 lbs. Dates	98 tins Full Cream Milk
29 lbs. Sultanas	16 tins Stewed Steak
10 tins Pilchards	72 lbs. Cheese
1 tin Carrots	11 tins Beans
2 tins Plums	2 tins Processed Peas
4 tins Soup	1 tin Spam
2 tins Sardines	206 lbs. Beef
1 lb. tin Tongue	1 tin Spaghetti
2 tins Sausage	1 tin Pork Luncheon Meat
1 lb. tin Grade "A" Salmon	

- (c) **Other Foods.**—The inspection, and registration where called for of premises in which other foods, e.g. prepared meats, fried fish, etc. are prepared has been conscientiously carried out during the year. In particular the powers the

Council possess under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream were fully exercised as suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 183/46.

The 19 Bakehouses on the Council's register were periodically visited throughout the year and a high hygienic standard maintained.

Registration of Premises under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Prepared Meats.—The Council has on its register at the moment some 34 premises registered for the preparation of prepared meats. Throughout the year these were subject to inspection and all premises were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream Premises.—During the year the Council issued the following licences:-

- 4 licences in respect of the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream ;
- 1 provisional licence for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream.
- 5 licences for the sale only of prepared Ice Cream.

The Department has kept a close watch on the manufacture of this product and 12 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. The reports on these 12 samples, when compared with the old bacteriological standards for a Grade A Milk, showed that:-

- 2 samples were satisfactory.
- 6 samples were part satisfactory.
- 4 samples were unsatisfactory.

In addition the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights & Measures Inspectors, is a summary of the samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1946.

Baking Powder	1	Margarine	1
"Barlova"	1	Meat Paste	1
Butter	1	Milk	28
Castor Oil	1	Rum	1
Cooking Fat	1	Seidlitz Powder	1
Epsom Salts	1	Whisky	2
Family Ointment	1		
Fish Paste	3		
Flavouring Essence	1		
Cake Mixture	1		

All the above samples complied with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act and there were no prosecutions.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases generally during 1946 was low and calls for no special comment. No case of Diphtheria occurred in the Rural District during 1946 and this was most probably the direct outcome of the Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than
Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	12	11	—
Pneumonia	3	—	1
Erysipelas	4	2	—
Measles	28	—	1
Whooping Cough	27	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)...	1	—	—

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for.	Number submitted	Result.	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	31	—	31
Typhoid Group	4	—	4
Hæmolytic Streptococci	3	2	1
Fæces	2	—	2
Brucella Abortus	1	—	1

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases of Smallpox reported in the Area during the year but a good amount of the Health Department's time was taken in carrying out the surveillance of numerous reported contacts. These were mainly returning overseas personnel and persons implicated in the outbreak which occurred at Cheshire County Hospital at Clatterbridge.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25-35 „ ...	3	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ...	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55 „ ...	2	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	11	7	2	3	8	5	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
183	197	215	243	257	272	238	244

61 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 7 of which were reported on as positive.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1941—1946 the progress made in the Rural area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced jointly in 1941 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee, can be gathered from the following figures:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Percentage of Children treated between 0-4 years of age inclusive... ..	25·3%	37·2%	37·1%	34·5%	35·2%	34·1%
Percentage of Children treated between 5-14 years of age inclusive... ..	73·7%	77·7%	78·3%	80·7%	76·6%	75·6%

The total number of children known to have received protective treatment in the Northwich Rural area up to December, 1946, was 6,305 of whom 384 have received "booster" injections.

The small percentage of "under fives" receiving treatment under the Council's Scheme during these years has been noted and the Council further considered the difficulty which parents living in outlying parishes met with when their homes are situated at a distance from the nearest Immunisation Centre. To meet this difficulty the Council agreed that in outlying areas, e.g. Delamere, Tarporley, Utkinton, etc. children should attend their own Doctor's Surgery by arrangement.

For those children whose homes are not in isolated parts of the District the following Centres are available:-

- (1) Child Welfare Centre, Winnington Street, Northwich.
(sessions held monthly).
- (2) Child Welfare Centre, Weaver Street, Winsford.
(sessions held monthly).
- (3) Child Welfare Centre, Middlewich. (sessions held monthly).
- (4) Occasional sessions held at Child Welfare Centre, Barnton and at Wincham and Weaverham Schools.

A certain number of children, whose parents prefer it, receive the treatment privately through their own Doctors to whom the Ministry of Health's free supply of prophylactics is made available for this purpose. I have no exact knowledge of the numbers of all the children dealt with in this way so the percentages recorded above do not now include them.

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made in 1942 through the joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1946. Patients of the Rural District receive cleansing treatment at the Northwich and Winsford Cleansing Centres.

The reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases of Scabies	755	453	399	243	233
Cases of Pediculosis	25	12	12	17	2
Total	780	465	411	260	235
Number of House-holds involved	270	184	169	119	101

(5) **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 91 homes was carried out during the year as follows:-

For Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	51 houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	...	...	...	...	...	12 ,,
For Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	28 ,,

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1947.

